

LEAD *Educator*



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Fall 2005

MISSION STATEMENT

The LEAD *Educator* is a quarterly publication of the Long Beach Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Our goal is to provide news and information about childhood lead poisoning prevention measures for parents, childcare providers and the medical community.

In addition, we provide current information on lead poisoning screening and legislative measures.

NEWS

Advocacy Group Finds States "Neglect Lead Testing Duty," for Most Vulnerable Children.

The Alliance for Healthy Homes is a nationwide non-profit network of some 200-community groups that work on lead poisoning prevention, affordable housing and children's environmental health issues. Recently the Alliance issued a report entitled "Stuck in Neutral; States Neglect Lead Testing Duty to Children Served by Medicaid."

According to the report, only 24% of Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) enrolled children, ages 1 and 2 years received the federally mandated blood lead tests in 2003. This is a slight improvement from 19% in 1999, but the problem is that Medicaid enrolled children are more at risk than other children because they tend to live in older housing with poor upkeep, a key factor in lead poisoning cases.

According to federal regulations, the Medicaid program for each state is required to provide health services rendered under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate, which includes blood lead screenings and other preventative screenings. In California, all children eligible for EPSDT services require blood lead testing at 12 and 24 months.

Researchers assert that Medicaid children are "still not getting the required lead screening tests." "The problem is, children covered by Medicaid are not being tested for lead even though it is part of the preventive healthcare services."

Nationally, of the 1 and 2 year-olds receiving preventive care services under EPDST only 34% received a blood lead test in 2003 and only 16% of California 1 and 2 year-olds in the same high risk category.

These findings were presented along with three important recommendations, which are; (1) Direct CDC oversight of the Medicaid Lead Screening, (2) Sharing and adoption of effective lead screening strategies among states, and (3) Additional funding for the CDC Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch.

However, there are important limitations of the data analyzed, for more information you can find the entire report on the World Wide Web:

http://www.afhh.org/res/res_pubs/stuck_in_neutral_082605.pdf

Child Health and Disability Prevention Administration

The CHDP program is a state funded network of some 43 medical providers throughout Long Beach that offers a full range of health assessments services. These services include complete physical exams, oral/dental health assessments, screenings for vision and hearing, anemia, blood lead and tuberculosis. Immunizations, sports physicals and referrals are also offered. Generally, the program is available for eligible applicants from birth to 21 years based on family annual income requirements. Those pre-enrolled in CHDP may qualify for Medi-Cal and Healthy Family enrollment but the process (known as Gateway) is not complete until further eligibility criteria are met. For further information, please call the CHDP Administrative offices at (562) 570-7980.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 23-30, 2005.

Keep your children away from chipping or peeling paint and have them tested for lead at age 1 and 2!

An information booth will be on display Monday through Friday at the Health Department 2525 Grand Ave.

Also, look for us on the Internet:
www.longbeach.gov

HEALTH EDUCATION

Simple steps to protect your child from lead

Keep your home clean and dust free.

Wet mop floors, wet wipe windowsills, vacuum, and wash all surfaces often. Use household cleaner and rinse with clean water. This keeps lead in dust from spreading in the house.



Wash your child's hands often.

Lead dust can stick to hands and toys that children put into their mouths. It is especially important to wash your children's hands often before eating and sleeping.

Change out of work clothes and shoes, and wash up or shower.

Lead is in many workplaces:

- Painting and remodeling sites.
- Radiator repair shops.
- Places that make or recycle batteries.



Ask your employer to tell you if you work with lead. Children can be poisoned from lead dust brought home on workers, their clothes and shoes.



Do not use imported, older, or handmade dishes or pots.

These food containers should not be used for cooking, serving or storing food. Lead can be released from the glazed surface of the pottery and passed onto food or drink and cause lead poisoning.

Never sand, dry scrape, power wash or sandblast paint.

Unless paint has been tested and is lead free, it, it should not be scraped or sandblasted. Lead dust from paint can spread and poison your family, pets, and neighbors. If you are planning to sandblast, you will first need to contact Planning and Building at (562) 570-6601 for sandblasting permit.



Talk to your child's doctor.

Your child may need a blood test for lead poisoning. Most children are tested at 1 and 2 years of age. Children under 6 who have never been tested should also be tested. Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. A blood test is the only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead or has lead poisoning.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Report Apr-Jun, 2005

New Lead Cases:

3

Number of Blood Lead Tests:

1521

Levels: < 5µg/dL

1482

Levels: < 10µg/dL

107

Levels: <20µg/dL

6

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For additional
information, please call
the Childhood Lead
Poisoning Prevention
Program at
(562) 570-4203 or
(562) 570-7923
(Spanish)

Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

Call: (562) 570-7979

Or

1 (800) 832-2307

INFORMATION ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

California Department of Health Services

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/>

Alliance for Healthy Homes

<http://www.afhh.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm>

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

www.hud.gov/offices/lead/

T.D.D. (562) 570-4346

This document is
available in an
alternative format
by request:
(562) 570-7923